

May 6 / Administration of William J. Clinton, 1997

In pursuance of this Alliance Against Drugs, we hereby pledge the fullest support of ourselves and of our governments to construct drug free societies for the twenty-first century.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON
President
The United States of America

ERNESTO ZEDILLO
PONCE DE LEÓN
President
Federal Republic of
Mexico

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this declaration.

Statement on the Election of Sandra Feldman as President of the American Federation of Teachers

May 6, 1997

In electing Sandra Feldman president, the American Federation of Teachers has chosen someone who has already proven herself as a dynamic leader and superb educator. I've visited schools with her in New York and have seen first-hand the respect that teachers and students have for her. I share that respect.

Like her predecessor, Al Shanker, Sandra Feldman is an outstanding advocate for our Nation's students. I look forward to working with her on a variety of issues that will improve the quality of education our children receive, including making high standards a reality in every American public school.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the Lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979

May 6, 1997

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by section 204 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1703(c)) and section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1641(c)), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency declared by Executive Order 12924 of August 19, 1994, to deal with

the threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States caused by the lapse of the Export Administration Act of 1979.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
May 6, 1997.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to Discussions With Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador of Mexico's Democratic Revolutionary Party in Mexico City

May 6, 1997

Q. Mr. President, why did you decide to be the first American President to meet with opposition leaders?

The President. Because we support the political reform process in Mexico, and I do this

in other countries, in Russia, Israel, other countries I visit. So I thought it was important.

NOTE: The exchange began at 7:10 p.m. at El Presidente Intercontinental Hotel. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks at the State Dinner in Mexico City *May 6, 1997*

Mr. President, Mrs. Zedillo, members of the Mexican Cabinet and other distinguished public servants, citizens of Mexico, on behalf of Hillary, of all the members of our delegation from the administration and the Congress, I first thank you for the graciousness and warmth with which you have welcomed us. We live side by side as neighbors, we work together day-in and day-out as partners, but the warmth of your reception has reminded us today that we are also close friends.

Just before the dinner began, President and Mrs. Zedillo took Hillary and me to see the magnificent murals of Diego Rivera that adorn this great palace. They are very moving works. Along with the paintings of Orozco and Siqueiros, they represent the peak of artistic achievement in this century and one of the many contributions of Mexico to the culture of the world. Anyone who has seen it knows that the power of Rivera's "Epic of the Mexico People in Their Struggle for Freedom and Independence" comes from more than mere technical skill. In this grand work we see the proud spirit of Mexico's revolution and Mexico's heart.

Instantly, I saw Rivera's extraordinary love of the Mexican people, the same passion which then and now inspires Mexico's journey toward a better and freer society. Rivera never actually finished his epic, and perhaps that is fitting because the journey of every nation to increase the freedom of its people, the labor at the very heart of democracy, never ends.

I am delighted to be in Mexico at another time when this struggle is making a dramatic stride forward. Mexico's leaders and political parties are opening the doors of democracy wider than ever. New citizen groups have sown the seeds of a vibrant civil society that promises to deliver to all Mexicans a better and freer future.

Mr. President, you reminded us that it was in this palace where Benito Juarez corresponded with Abraham Lincoln. Our President, Mr. Lin-

coln, who many of us consider to be our greatest President, called in the United States in his time for a new birth of freedom. The murals here remind us here that the birth of freedom is more than a matter of improving our political systems. We must also strive to see that our citizens are free from want and hunger, free from the dangers our new age brings, and free to make the most of their own lives.

The partnership we seek with Mexico is one that will advance that kind of freedom, here and throughout the Americas. We want to work together to lay the foundation of an enduring prosperity. We want to join together to improve the air and water we share. We want to work to turn our border into a region of growth, to defeat disease, to defeat the threat of drugs, organized crime, and corruption.

Mr. President, we can succeed because we have forged a relationship as broad and deep as that which exists between any two nations. And today we have made important progress. We are answering the demands of our time, advancing the common goals of our people, serving a friendship that is at the heart of what we all want for our future. In so doing, we honor the legacy of Benito Juarez and Abraham Lincoln and the constant quest for a new birth of freedom.

Ladies and gentlemen, I ask you now to join with me in toasting President and Mrs. Zedillo and their family, to partnership of our nations and the new day of freedom it will bring to the friends and neighbors of our shared continent.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:09 p.m. at the Presidential Palace. In his remarks, he referred to President Ernesto Zedillo of Mexico and his wife, Anilda Patricia. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.